

Winder-Garrett Cemetery

Sarah E. McCartney

The Winder-Garrett Cemetery is located on NASA Langley Research Center property near the site of the Chesterville plantation house. There are five marked graves in the cemetery; however, it is likely that there are additional graves whose markers have been lost over time. The cemetery is the known final resting place of two members of the Winder family, marked with above ground vaults, and three members of the Garrett family, marked with a single tall monument. The two families were related.

In Memory of Mrs. Mary H. Winder
Wife of
Dr. George H. Winder
Departed this Life
March 3rd 1845
Age 55 Years
To Know Her was to Love Her¹

Mary H. Winder was born circa 1790. She was the daughter of Houlder B. Hudgins and Mary Gwyn of Mathews County, Virginia. Mary married Gabriel Haller and received Chesterville as a wedding gift from her father in 1808.² Gabriel and Mary had a daughter, Louisa, later that year. Gabriel Haller died shortly after Louisa's birth, and within a few years Mary remarried. Mary's second husband was Dr. George Harmanson Winder, a descendant of Governor George Yeardley of Virginia and a relative of Governor Levin Winder of Maryland. Dr. Winder, too, predeceased his wife, and in the 1830 U.S. Federal Census, Mary is listed as the head of the household with six children living at home. Mary died in 1845 and was buried in the small family cemetery on her property. She left the Chesterville house and property to her first child, daughter Louisa Haller.

Miss Louisa E. Haller
First Daughter of
Mary H. Winder
Aged 41 Years
Departed this Life
February 19, 1849
Her Spirit is at Rest

Louisa Haller was born circa 1808. She was the daughter of Gabriel and Mary (Hudgins) Haller. Louisa grew up at Chesterville in Elizabeth City County, and she inherited the property from her mother. In 1847, at the age of thirty-nine, Louisa deeded the property to her half-brother, Levin Yeardley Winder.³ Louisa wrote her will on November 15, 1848.⁴

¹ Barry W. Miles, James H. Mero and Joseph A. Atkins, *Cemeteries of the City of Hampton, Virginia, formerly Elizabeth City County* (Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 1999).

² Houlder Hudgins Sr. to Mary Hundley Haller (wife of Gabriel Louis Haller), June 26, 1808, *Deed Book of Elizabeth City County*.

³ Louisa E. Haller to Levin Y. Winder, January 1, 1847, *Deed Book of Elizabeth City County*, vol. K, p. 498-500.

To: children of my brother John H. Winder by his present wife Margaret R. Winder, \$1000. **To:** children of my brother Levin Y. Winder by his present wife Annie E. Winder, \$1000. **To:** Laura A. Garrett, sister, \$1000 to be held 6 years, then to go to Laura to buy a house and lot (other stipulations). An iron railing or brick wall should be erected to enclose my mother's and my grave and a marble slab be put over each of us. **To:** George A. Garrett, my bedstead. **To:** Penelope H. Garrett, niece, bureau. Balance of estate to John H. and Levin Winder. **Exec:** John H. Winder, brother; James M. Vaughan. **Wit:** Robert Hudgins; E.W. Hudgins;

Codicil: Jan. 26, 1849 – If my brother Levin Y. Winder takes my niece Mary Decormis away from my sister Laura, he shall receive nothing.

Louisa died in 1849, shortly after writing the codicil to her will, and she was buried near her mother. The specifications for the cemetery were carried out and remain to this day. Her will was recorded on May 24, 1849.

In Memory of
R.R. Garrett
Born Jan 1, 1810
Deceased Jan 13, 1855
Age 45 Years
This Spirit Rests in the Arms of the Redeemer

Richard R. Garrett was born in 1810 in Williamsburg, Virginia.⁵ He attended the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg and studied law, but he chose to pursue agriculture instead. R.R. married Penelope Winder, the daughter of Mary H. Winder and half-sister of Louisa Haller, at Chesterville in 1831.⁶ Penelope died sometime after the birth of their son George, circa 1833, and by 1845, Richard was married to Laura Winder Garrett, Penelope's sister, and they had several young children.⁷ Garrett served in the Virginia Senate as the representative for Accomack, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Warwick and Williamsburg from 1844 to 1848.⁸ He died at the Garrett estate, Marlbanks, which was located on the York River three miles southeast of Yorktown, Virginia. Information about his burial is documented in Richard M. Bucktrout's *Daybook and Ledger*.⁹ On page 81 of the ledger, Bucktrout's entry for January 17, 1855 noted that the estate of Mr. R.R. Garrett paid \$10.00 for "one metallic coffin for himself [6 ft in the clear]" also, \$5.00 for "a case for the same" and another \$10.00 for

⁴ Joan Charles, *Elizabeth City County Virginia Wills, 1800-1859* (Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 2002), 95.

⁵ R.R. Garrett obituary, *Garrett Family Papers*, Special Collections, John D. Rockefeller Library, Colonial Williamsburg.

⁶ Marriage of Richard R. Garrett to Miss Penelope Wynder on Tuesday, November 8, 1831, *American beacon and Virginia and North-Carolina Gazette, November 12, 1831*; Matthew M. Wise, *The Littleton Heritage* (West Columbia, South Carolina: Wentworth Printing Corporation, 1997), 347.

⁷ R.R. Garrett to Laura Garrett, Jan 27th 1845, *Garrett Papers*, Special Collections Research Center, Earl Gregg Swem Library, College of William and Mary; Wise, 347.

⁸ Cynthia M. Leonard, *The General Assembly of Virginia, July 30, 1619-January 11, 1978: a Bicentennial Register of Member* (Richmond, VA: Published for the General Assembly of Virginia by the Virginia State Library, 1978).

⁹ Bucktrout was an undertaker in Williamsburg and his ledger spans the years 1850-1866.

“tending funeral on Back River” and carrying the coffin “down to huse.”¹⁰ R.R. Garrett’s “metallic coffin” was one of the first that Richard Bucktrout obtained that was not built of wood.¹¹ The coffin was purchased in Richmond or Norfolk and shipped to Williamsburg by boat. R.R.’s death was noted by an obituary in the *Daily South-side Democrat* on January 23, 1855.

Laura Garrett
Born Sept 15, 1842
Deceased Oct 2, 1846

Susan A. Garrett
Born May 29, 1845
Deceased Aug 15, 1846

Laura and Susan were most likely the daughters of Richard R. Garrett and his wife Laura, who was the daughter of Mary Haller and the half-sister of Louisa Haller. Although a marriage record for Richard and Laura has not been found, other documentation shows that they were married and had several children in 1845.¹²



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¹⁰ Richard Manning Bucktrout, *Daybook and Ledger, 1850-1866*, Special Collections Research Center, Earl Gregg Swem Library, College of William and Mary.

¹¹ Kelly Marie Brennan, “The Bucktrout Funeral Home, a Study of Professionalization and Community Service,” Master’s thesis, College of William and Mary, 2007, 20.

¹² R.R. Garrett to Laura Garrett, Jan 27th 1845, *Garrett Papers*, Special Collections Research Center, Earl Gregg Swem Library, College of William and Mary; Wise, 347.